(c) Escalation In the cost of all the inputs including fuel and feeds stock over the years accounts for increase in the cost of production. The consumer price of fertilizers is still below the cost of production and the landed cost of import.

(d) A Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizer Pricing has recently been constituted which is examining the matter.

(e) and (f) India normally does not export chemical fertilizer.

Drug Prices

1174. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items captioned "Despite patent protection Most Drug Prices to remain unaffected" appeared in the Indian Express dated the 19th December 1991;

(b) whether Government share the view that prices of 95 percent of the drugs produced in the country would remain unaffected even if India went in for patent protection and that the remaining 5 percent would be costly as stated by Mr. Geza Feketekuty the Senior policy advisor to the U.S. Trade Representative; and

(c) what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) Yes; Sir.

(b) and (c) On the basis of available information, it is estimated that the value of formulations based on drugs covered by product patents abroad marketed in the country, is about 10—15%.

Increasing the prices under new drug policy

1175. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the new drug policy would increase prices of drugs by 400 percent in some cases and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government have any plan to safeguard the interest of the low income groups and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) (and) (b) It has been the endeavour of Government to ensure easy availability of medicines in abundant quantity at reasonable prices to the consumers. This aspect is being borne in mind while reviewing the existing drug policy.

Restriction on use of fertilizer technology

1176. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any restriction on the use of fertilizer technology by fertilizer companies;

(b) whether Government have taken or proposes to take a decision to allow free selection of fertilizer technology; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Under the new Industrial Policy announced by Government in July, 1991, Indian companies are free to negotiate the terms of technology transfer according to their own commercial

judgement within certain specified parameters. This is applicable to all industries including the fertilizer industry. However, for the fertilizer industry, which operates under a Retention-cum-Subsidy Scheme, it would still be necessary for Government to satisfy itself on the proveness of technology and its effectiveness in terms of cost per unit of production, efficiency parameters in operation, etc., so that the cost of production and the subsidy outgo are the minimum.

Fertilizer subsidy

1177. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total amount of subsidy being paid on indigenous fertilizers and imported fertilizers at present;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce/abolish both the subsidies: and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) The Budget provision of fertilizer subsidy to be paid during the current financial year 1991-92 on indigenous and imported fertilizers is Rs. 3500 crores and Rs. 1300 crores, respectively.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Initiation of cases against pharmaceutical companies

1178. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases have been initiated against the pharmaceutical companies namely M/s. Carews Pharmaceuticals, M/s. Albert David and M/s. Novocole for overcharging the drugs namely combriam Analflam and Megadol respectively: and

(b) if so, what progress has been made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) In the case of M/s. Carews Pharmaceuticals, a tentative liability of Rs 7-11 crores was communicated to the company with the advise to deposit the same with the Government. The company has, however, obtained an interim stay in the matter from the Calcutta High Court. In the remaining two cases despite reminders, the concerned companies are not furnishing the details required by the Government to determine the overcharged amount, if any. The concerned State Drugs Controllers have been requested to use powers of para 23 of DPCO, 1987 to ensure that the requisite details are made available to the Government.

Foreign exchange requirement for import of fertilizers

1179. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange requirement for the import of fertilizers in 1992-93 would be about Rs. 7000 crores;

(b) what is the total sum required to revamp the public sector fertiliser units proposed to be wound up for being sick; and

(c) If so, which of the two is beneficial for the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMI-